



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TOWN OF JOHNSTON
100 IRONS AVENUE—JOHNSTON, RI 02919
TEL: (401) 231-4000 FAX: (401) 231-4181

October 19, 2011

Karen Scott, Assistant Chief
Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2013-2016
Town of Johnston Project Prioritization

Dear Ms. Scott:

The Town of Johnston is pleased to submit the attached Project Prioritization Cover Sheet. The Town of Johnston is fortunate to have several state-funded roadway projects nearing completion on Atwood Avenue and Hartford Avenue and is very cognizant of the state's fiscal realities. We have proposed no new TIP projects.

Existing TIP priorities were drafted by a committee comprised of the Makram Magalli, PE, Director of the Public Works Department; Lorraine Caruso, PE, Town Engineer; Capt. Dan Parrillo, Police Department; and Pamela Sherrill, AICP, Town Planner. Recommendations were presented to the Town Council on October 11, 2011. Resolution of the Town Council No. 2011-40 is attached. I appreciate the responsiveness of Amy Thibeault and many other design engineers at RIDOT in helping us understand the status of TIP projects.

As indicated in the attached October 5, 2011 memo outlining the review committee's recommendations to Town Council, the following are of note:

- Priorities 1 and 2, Windsor Avenue IR and Simmonsville Bridge #326 are recommended for implementation in full.
- Priority 3, Central Avenue IR from Atwood Avenue to the Providence line, has been reduced in half to approximately 0.7 miles to reflect recent roadway reconstruction associated with FM Global and sewer main installation.
- Priority 4, 10 High Hazard Intersections (C-3, including five intersections in Johnston) is reduced to one at the intersection of Killingly Street and Greenville Avenue. We recommend that the four pedestrian signalization improvements on Route 6/Hartford Avenue be dropped from consideration as these projects are not likely to improve safety and might encourage pedestrian use in a high traffic volume corridor without continuous sidewalks.
- Priority 5, Enhancement Program, is recommended for implementation in full although it is noted that an interpretive panel at the Manton Bridge has previously been completed.

We also would like to reinforce the importance of completion of Hartford Avenue (Route 6A) reconstruction (C-2) to the Providence line. Although we were not requested to provide a local priority, this is a critical project to improve sidewalks, drainage, and roadway surface. This corridor has a high RIPTA bus ridership and has high pedestrian traffic from neighborhoods to Tri-Town Community Action and other local destinations. Improvement of this section of roadway was a high priority of the Police Department.



Drainage problems associated with runoff from I-295 to the road surface of Central Avenue continues to be a safety problem on this local road. Although not indicated on the TIP, we encourage RIDOT to implement drainage improvements on this and Industrial Lane where similar drainage from the interstate highway causes local flooding.

These projects are directly consistent with the following *Johnston Comprehensive Community Plan* goals and policies:

Goal C-1: Provide a well-articulated street system.

Policy C-1d. Maintain coordination with Statewide Planning and RIDOT relative to the TIP program and the construction plans of RIDOT.

Goal C-2: Provide safe and coordinated bicycle and pedestrian (non-vehicular) routes.

Policy C-2b: Continue to work with RIDOT and RIDEM to facilitate any planned or potential facilities. *(Especially relevant to sidewalk improvements on Hartford Avenue)*

Goal C-5: Provide transportation routes that are capable of supporting the traffic and vehicles they are intended to serve.

Policy C-5a: Continue to monitor and provide input into the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program's Transportation Improvement Plan for all necessary Johnston projects.

Policy C-5e: Continue to work with the RIDOT in order to improve the roadway system in Johnston.

Policy C-5f: Develop and maintain roads so as to accommodate land uses likely to occur in accordance with the Future Land Use Plan.

No new projects are proposed so we have not indicated a preference for public hearing date. If our testimony is needed or if it would support our need for projects on the existing TIP, we prefer to testify at the November 8 at 10:00 am at the Department of Administration.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Sherrill, AICP, Town Planner

Encl.

cc: Joseph M. Polisena, Mayor
Doug Jeffrey, Chief of Staff
Mak Megalli, PE, Director, Department of Public Works
Lorraine Caruso, PE, Town Engineer
Capt. Dan Parrillo, Police Department
William J. Conley, Esq., Town Solicitor

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Transportation Improvement Program

Project Prioritization Cover Sheet

State Planning Council
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908
www.planning.ri.gov



CONTACT

Contact Information

Entity/Organization Town of Johnston

Contact Person Pamela Sherrill, Town Planner

Address 1385 Hartford Avenue

City Johnston

Rhode Island

Zip Code 02919

Phone 231-4021

Email planner@johnston-ri.us

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Project Prioritization

Priority	Listed in TIP 2009 - 2012		Regional Project		Project Name
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1	✓			✓	Pavement Management Program (PMP): Windsor Ave. (1R)
2	✓			✓	Bridge Program: Simmonsville Bridge #326. Sidewalk repair
3	✓			✓	PMP: Central Ave (1R) reduced limits (TP 42 to TP32 and TP21 to Prov Line)
4	✓			✓	Hazard Elimination North (C-3): Greenville / Killingly only (not Hartford Ave ped signals)
5	✓			✓	Enhancement: Woonasquatucket River Heritage Trail (see attached)
					Note local support for the following ongoing RIDOT projects:
	✓			✓	Highway Program - Hartford Ave (Route 6A) Reconstruction (see attached)
		✓		✓	I-295 Drainage Improvements at Central Ave and Industrial Lane (see attached)
					See attached Resolution of the Town Council No. 2011-40, 10/11/11
					See attached memo to Town Council, 10/5/11 with detailed description of priorities.

Please use an additional sheet if necessary.

CERTIFICATION

Applicant Certification

The information provided on this application is in accordance with local regulations and ordinances.

Joseph M. Polisena

Mayor

Applicant

Title

Signature

Date

10/18/2011

Official Certification - For Statewide Planning Use Only

Submission Date

Accepted by



Town of Johnston

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

No. 2011-40

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0


Council President

10/11/11
Date

Be it resolved that:

Whereas, The Rhode Island State Planning Council has announced the first four-year grant round for federally funded transportation projects since 2002; and;

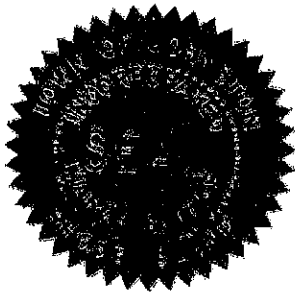
Whereas, The fiscal Years 2013 to 2016 grant round is significantly fiscally constrained due to decreased anticipated US Department of Transportation funding and commitments to other major construction projects around the State; and;

Whereas, The Rhode Island State Planning Program has requested that each Town prioritize the projects listed on the attached list titled "Prioritization of Projects for TIP"; and;


Whereas, Said Project Prioritization has been developed by the Planning Department, Department of Public Works and the Police Department and has also been reviewed by Mayor Joseph M. Polisena;

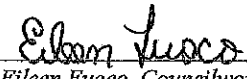
Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Johnston Town Council hereby authorize Mayor Joseph M. Polisena to submit an application for the projects as recommended and prioritized in the attached memo from Pamela Sherrill, Town Planner.

Be it further resolved that Resolution 2011-40 shall become effective immediately upon the date of its passage.

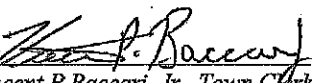



Robert V. Russo, President
District-4


Stephanie P. Manzi, Vice-President
District-5


Eileen Fuoco, Councilwoman
District-1


Ernest F. Pitocelli, Councilman
District-2

Attest 
Vincent P. Baccari, Jr., Town Clerk


David J. Santilli, Councilman
District-3

Official Document



OFFICE OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOWN OF JOHNSTON

100 IRONS AVENUE—JOHNSTON, RI 02919

TEL: (401) 231-4000 FAX: (401) 231-4181

MEMO

TO: Town Council

FROM: Pamela Sherrill, AICP, Town Planner

COPY: William J. Conley, Esq., Town Solicitor
Makram H. Megalli, PE, DPW Director
Lorraine Caruso, PE, Town Engineer
Capt. Dan Parrillo, Police Department
Doug Jeffrey, Chief of Staff

DATE: October 5, 2011

RE: Transportation Improvement Program FY 2013-2016

The Rhode Island State Planning Council has announced the first four-year grant round for federally-funded transportation projects that is open to municipalities since 2002. The FY 2013-2016 grant round is significantly fiscally constrained due to decreased anticipated US Department of Transportation funding through the upcoming Highway Reauthorization Act, and state commitments for the GARVEE payments for I-95, Sakonnet River Bridge and Pawtucket bridge replacement.

As such, RI Statewide Planning Program has asked that each town prioritize projects listed as Yes under the "Needs to be Prioritized" column on the existing TIP list (attached). The following prioritization has been developed by staff from the Planning Office, Department of Public Works, and the Police Department, with review by Mayor Polisena on September 28, 2011. **A Town Council resolution in support of the prioritization is required for the October 28, 2011 application.**

1. Pavement Management Program: **Windsor Avenue (1R)** - \$1.0 million. Pavement condition is especially deteriorated in the vicinity of Hawkins Reservoir. Project area length: 2.0 miles (approximate).

Photo 1: Windsor Avenue at Hawkins Reservoir showing pavement cracking



2. Bridge Program: Repairs to reopen the **Simmons ville Avenue bridge sidewalk** - \$0.63 million. Simmons ville Avenue has continuous sidewalks and pedestrian traffic. A safety hazard is created when pedestrians have to walk in the street around the closed segment. The sidewalk on the east side of the road has been closed for many, many years with no state attention to the need to reopen this facility.

Photo 2: Sidewalk closed at bridge on Simmons ville Avenue



3. **Pavement Management Program: Central Avenue** (1R, Atwood Ave to Providence line) - \$1.38 million. Although the original project length was approximately 1.4 miles, approximately 0.5 miles has been repaved from Atwood Avenue eastbound to FM Global and approximately 0.2 miles has been repaved as part of the Memorial Plat sewer project, thereby reducing the length of the project in half to 0.7 miles. Pavement surface is especially deteriorated immediately east of FM Global. It is recommended that the project limits be between TP #42 (east of FM Global) and TP #32 and between TP #21 and the Providence line.



Photo 3: Deteriorated pavement and drainage on Central Avenue east of FM Global

4. **Highway Safety Improvement Program: Hazard Elimination-North (C-3)** - \$2.5 million. Five of the 10 intersections are located in Johnston. The project currently includes improvements to the **Greenville Avenue-Killingly Street intersection**. Improvements include shifting the center line to create a longer left turn storage lane on Greenville Avenue northbound and creation of left and right turn lanes on Killingly Street northbound. This has been identified by the review committee as an important project to accommodate the high volumes bound to and from Rhode Island College. We recommend that proposed pedestrian phase signals on Hartford Avenue at Reservoir, Rollingwood, Bishop Hill, and Hopkins Avenue be dropped from further consideration as these improvements would not improve vehicular safety and do not provide sidewalk connections for safe pedestrian travel.
5. **Enhancement Program – Woonasquatucket River Heritage Trail** - \$0.20 million. In 2002 the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council proposed this TIP project to install markers at historic buildings and sites in Johnston and Providence. The Providence work is well underway or complete but the only Johnston piece completed to date is the interpretive panel at the Manton bridge on Greenville Avenue. Markers are proposed at the Nichols House on Killingly Street, Clemence-Irons house on George Waterman, Daniel Angel house on Dean, and the Farnum-Angell House on Putnam Pike. Site markers are proposed as Graniteville/Centerdale, Greystone Village, Lymansville Village, Allendale Village, Caesarville and Slack Reservoir.

Although not required, I have been advised that it would be highly beneficial for RIDOT project implementation to include Town Council support for the following projects:

1. **Highway Program – Hartford Avenue (Route 6A) Reconstruction.** This project (currently underway and not requiring prioritization under the TIP) will include curbs, drainage improvements and sidewalk repair or construction in the section between the Senior Center/Tri-town and the Providence line. Lane reconfiguration with a center left turn lane has been very successful west of Tri-Town. Capt. Parrillo indicated that pedestrian safety is a major concern as sidewalks are not continuous and there is a lot of pedestrian traffic especially from neighborhoods at the east end of Hartford Avenue to Tri-town. Many popular RIPTA bus stops located along this section of Hartford Avenue demonstrate the need for adequate sidewalks.
2. **I-295 Drainage Improvements at Central Avenue and Industrial Lane.** RIDOT is currently addressing drainage improvements at these two locations through ongoing programs. Ponding and icing on Central Avenue beneath the I-295 bridge is especially dangerous. Although I have been advised that this project does not need to be submitted as a new TIP application, support of the Town Council to solve these ongoing drainage problems created on a federally-funded interstate, will demonstrate local need.

Prioritization of Projects For TIP - Cities and Towns

TIP Program	Project / Program	Limits	Funding	Years Listed In Current TIP	ID	Status	Construction Contract #	Needs to be Prioritized
Johnston								
Bridge Program	Simonsville Bridge #326	Simonsville Ave over Simmons Brook. Immediate Approaches only	\$0.63	Future	0182A	In Design, Conceptual Phase		Yes
Enhancement Program	Woonasquacket River Heritage Trail	Johnston	\$0.20	Future	T2EA2-136	Design Not Started		Yes
Highway Program	Hartford Ave (Rte. 6A) Reconstruction	Landscaping	\$0.29	2011	0134B	In Design 90%		No
Highway Program	Hartford Ave (Rte. 6A) Reconstruction	C-2 - Atwood Avenue to Killingly Street	\$6.25	Future	0138B	In Design 90%	92110	No
Highway Program	Hartford Ave (Rte. 6A) Reconstruction	C-1 - I-295 to Atwood Ave Street	\$3.84	2009	0138A	Active in Construction	2009-CH-009	No
Highway Program	Stormwater Retrofit Demo Project	Sites W-6 - Route 6 in Providence and Johnston at Killingly Street within the off-ramp infields. Route 6 east within the highway shoulder adjacent the intersection of Ophelia and Grimwood Streets	\$0.89	2009	0104K	Substantially Completed	2009-CH-041	No
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Hazard Elimination - North (C-3)	10 Intersections	\$2.50	2011	0071R	In Design, Design Study Report Completed		Yes
Pavement Management Program	Central avenue (1R)	Atwood Avenue (Route 5) to Providence C/L	\$1.38	Future	0172D	In Design 90%		Yes
Pavement Management Program	Windsor Ave (1R)	Greenville Ave to Scituate T/L	\$1.00	Future	0177F	In Design		Yes

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TIP Program	Project / Program	Limits	Funding	Years Listed In Current TIP	ID	Status	Construction Contract #	Needs to be Prioritized
SAFETEA-LU Barnard's Northwest Bike Trail/Woonasquatucket River Greenway - Transportation Improvements	HP-4344, HP-4868 Lyndon Ave to Dean Ave Contract 5 - Johnston	\$4.00			0094H	In Design 30%		No
Study & Development Program	Atwood Ave.	Rte. 6A to Central Ave. is under construction by FM Global; Remainder needs to be studied				To Be Studied		Yes